

Valle del Sol has been instrumental in providing a base of leadership for the Latino community. Many Latino leaders in Arizona, including myself, have served on Valle del Sol's Board of Directors, or have attended Valle del Sol's Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI). HLI has provided leadership training for over 18 years and is offered to community members who are dedicated to addressing Latino issues. Under HLI training, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of issues affecting the Latino community, as well as practical leadership skills. The goal of HLI is to arm leaders with the valuable tools to effectively advocate for issues important to the Latino community.

I would like especially to acknowledge Valle del Sol's current leadership, headed by President and CEO Luz Sarmina-Gutierrez. Ms. Sarmina-Gutierrez's efforts to maintain Valle del Sol's high quality of service was duly recognized, and Valle del Sol was awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for four of its programs that specialize in substance abuse and mental health. This accreditation is the highest achievement an organization can receive from CARF and is the second time a three-year accreditation was awarded to Valle del Sol. The CARF accreditation demonstrates to the public that Valle del Sol's services meet stringent standards in following with its policies, procedures and practices, including health and safety standards.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring and congratulating Valle del Sol, its leadership, and its employees upon the celebration of its 35th Anniversary. It is with great pride that I celebrate Valle del Sol's outstanding contributions to the Arizona community and its unwavering commitment to public service, and I wish them many more years of success.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
CLARENCE AND MAYME VAIL OF
HUGO, MN

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 80th wedding anniversary of Clarence and Mayme Vail of Hugo, Minnesota.

Eighty-two years ago, Clarence and Mayme met when Clarence's family moved to Hugo and he joined Mayme's eighth grade class. Clarence and Mayme were the only two from this class to continue into high school, though they both left school early a few years later. They left for a good reason: to get married. Although the couple heard people say that they were too young to be married—he was eighteen and she was just sixteen—they began their wedded lives together on February 17, 1925.

For the first few years they were married, Clarence and Mayme lived in the telephone office where Mayme's mother worked. Their first children were born in that office. Since

then, Clarence and Mayme have lived in two homes, both in Hugo, and they now have six children, 39 grandchildren, 98 great-grandchildren, and 32 great-great grandchildren.

Before retiring, Clarence worked as a machine and tools salesman, and after their children were older Mayme worked at the local grocery store. Now, in their retirement, Clarence and Mayme spend their time reading, playing cards, and attending church every morning. Mayme also enjoys making quilts for local charities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Clarence and Mayme Vail on their 80th wedding anniversary as an example which we should all try to follow. Clarence and Mayme have been married for a near-record number of years, and it is likely that they hold the record for being the longest-married couple in Minnesota history. I admire the love and dedication which this couple has shared for so many years, and I wish them many more years of happiness together.

REMARKS ON THE SITUATION IN
IRAQ

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we may soon know the official count from the elections in Iraq but it is already very clear we will not know the real long term impact and results for some time.

Will the election unite the Iraqi people or further divide them? Will the new government represent the interests of all sectors of Iraqi society? Will the rights of minorities be protected? Will the new laws of the land be promulgated on a secular or religious basis?

The elections do nothing to increase the legitimacy of our so-called "preventive war." The official end for the search for weapons of mass destruction confirms what a majority of the American people have known for some time: we were misled as to the need for military action in Iraq.

There was no link between Saddam Hussein and 9/11. U.N. sanctions and inspections were, in fact, highly effective in disarming Iraq after the 1991 war.

There is no doubt that those Iraqis who did vote, and already the controversy is growing over what share of the population participated, were expressing their profound hope for an end to the violence, for an improvement in the quality of their lives, for a say in their own futures and an end to the occupation of their country.

And why not? Estimates by reputable experts such as the British medical journal, *The Lancet* are that more than 100,000 Iraqis have died as a result of the war and the on-going violence under the occupation.

The Iraqi government has reported that malnutrition among young children has doubled since the war began and that they are experiencing soaring rates of disease exacerbated by a decimated health system.

Iraq is no closer to a stable democracy today than it was two years ago. The Iraqi in-

surgency appears to be growing significantly faster than the security forces we have attempted to train. It is questionable if Iraqi security forces can ever achieve authority as long as our troops have the real responsibility for maintaining order.

The presence of more than 130,000 U.S. troops has, in fact, become a rallying point and an endless source of fodder for propaganda by terrorists.

At a time when American prestige and leadership is more necessary than ever, when the light of hope for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people once again flickers to life, U.S. ability to serve as a broker for peace has been crippled by the perception of many of our actions in Iraq.

We face the massive and difficult task of rebuilding international alliances and renewing the mechanisms of international diplomacy and security. And what has been the cost to America? As of yesterday, 1,449 American troops killed, 10,740 wounded as of the end of January. Extended time of service for tens of thousands of service men and women and reservists at immense cost to families.

The diversion of tens of billions of dollars from homeland security, health, education, housing, and a host of other needs have left some of our most urgent needs here at home untended and unaddressed. The long term impact on our military has not yet been examined, but based on our experience after Vietnam there is good reason to expect that there will be a negative impact.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of stabilizing the situation in Iraq, in the interests of peace and security in the region, in the interests of our homeland security, and in support of our troops, it is time to bring our troops home.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM
BERTRAND TURNER ON HIS
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Mr. William Bertrand Turner on this, his 100th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, William Bertrand Turner was born on February 28, 1905 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and grew up a stone's throw away from the famous Pasquotank River. Mr. Turner grew up there, was educated in the public school system, and eventually graduated from Elizabeth City State University.

Mr. Turner's love for science lured him to Shaw University in the capital city of North Carolina. He pursued his interest in Organic Chemistry during the height of the "Roaring 20's" and graduated in 1929, during the beginning stages of the Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, after his graduation from Shaw University, William Turner set his sights North, and began a quest for his Master's Degree at the renowned Cornell University in New York. Mr. Turner received his Masters Degree in his passion, Organic Chemistry in 1936.

In 2001, Mr. Turner was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the American